

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:
 - 5 accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;
 - displaying a grid on a display device, said grid being an iconic representation of said formatted warehoused data, said grid comprising elements, each element corresponding to some portion of said formatted warehoused data; and
 - 10 displaying a portion of said formatted warehoused data on said display device in response to a selection of a corresponding element of said grid.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein content server timeouts are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.
- 15 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said warehoused data is formatted in a cross-tabular manner.
4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said portion of said formatted warehoused data is indicated by a distinctive marking of said 20 corresponding element of said grid.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein only said portion of said
formatted warehoused data is downloaded to said display device in response to said
selection.

6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a different portion of
5 said formatted warehoused data is displayed on said display device by selecting a
different element of said grid.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a graphical user
interface (GUI) comprising a cursor and scrolling arrows is also displayed on said
10 display device.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein a different portion of
said formatted warehoused data is displayed by utilizing said GUI to navigate
within said grid and to select a different element of said grid.

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9. A device comprising:
a bus;
a display coupled with said bus;
a memory unit coupled with said bus; and
20 a processor coupled with said bus, said processor for executing a method for
navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:

accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;
displaying a grid on said display, said grid being an iconic representation of said formatted warehoused data, said grid comprising elements, each element corresponding to some portion of said formatted warehoused data; and

5 displaying a portion of said formatted warehoused data on said display in response to a selection of a corresponding element of said grid.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein content server timeouts are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

11. The device of Claim 9, wherein said warehoused data is formatted in a cross-tabular manner.

15. The device of Claim 9, wherein said portion of said formatted warehoused data is indicated by a distinctive marking of said corresponding element of said grid.

20. The device of Claim 9, wherein only said portion of said formatted warehoused data is downloaded in response to said selection.

14. The device of Claim 9, wherein a different portion of said formatted warehoused data is displayed on said display by selecting a different element of said grid.

5 15. The device of Claim 9, wherein a graphical user interface (GUI) comprising a cursor and scrolling arrows is also displayed on said display.

10 16. The device of Claim 15, wherein a different portion of said formatted warehoused data is displayed by utilizing said GUI to navigate within said grid and to select a different element of said grid.

15 17. A method for navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:
accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;
distilling said formatted warehoused data into a plurality of hierarchical overviews, wherein a hierarchical overview comprises a subtotal of selected entries from said formatted warehoused data; and
receiving a hierarchical overview in response to a first inquiry.

20 18. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein content server timeouts are prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

19. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein warehoused data is
formatted in a cross-tabular manner.

20. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein said device is a
5 communications device.

21. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein information about said
selected entries is received in response to a subsequent inquiry.

10 22. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein inquiries and responses
to inquiries are conveyed audibly according to a voice-based communications
protocol.

15 23. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein a response to an inquiry
is displayed.

24. A device comprising:

a bus;

a memory unit coupled with said bus; and

20 a processor coupled with said bus, said processor for executing a method for
navigating a large amount of data, said method comprising:

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accessing a source of formatted warehoused data;
distilling said formatted warehoused data into a plurality of
hierarchical overviews, wherein a hierarchical overview comprises a subtotal
of selected entries from said formatted warehoused data; and
receiving a hierarchical overview in response to a first inquiry.

25. The device of Claim 24, wherein content server timeouts are
prevented while accessing said source of formatted data.

10 26. The device of Claim 24, wherein warehoused data is formatted in a
cross-tabular manner.

15 27. The device of Claim 24, wherein said device is a communications
device.

28. The device of Claim 24, wherein information about said selected
entries is received in response to a subsequent inquiry.

20 29. The device of Claim 24, wherein inquiries and responses to inquiries
are conveyed audibly according to a voice-based communications protocol.

30. The device of Claim 28, wherein a response to an inquiry is displayed.

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